

Good Neighborly News

Issue 1

Neighborhood Watch Publication

Winter-2006

Neighborhood Watch Block Captains:

Please distribute this newsletter to your block participants. Need a white copy? Go to our website at www.ci.carlsbad.ca.us and subscribe to the newsletter or just print the current edition.

Editor-Jodee Sasway
Crime Prevention
(760) 931-2105
jsasw@ci.carlsbad.ca.us

Police Contacts:

Website
www.ci.carlsbad.ca.us

Emergency
9 1 1

Non-emergency
(760) 931-2197

Crime Statistic Hotline
(760) 931-2201

Other Crime Statistics
(760) 931-2170

Police Watch Commander
(760) 931-2115

Traffic Unit
(760) 931-2106

Narcotics Unit
(760) 931-2193

Records Division
(760) 931-2119

Detective Division
(760) 931-2145

Senior Volunteer Patrol
(760) 931-2214

Community Services
(760) 931-2177

The Crime Prevention Unit's mission is the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it.

Mail Theft?

Has it happened to you?

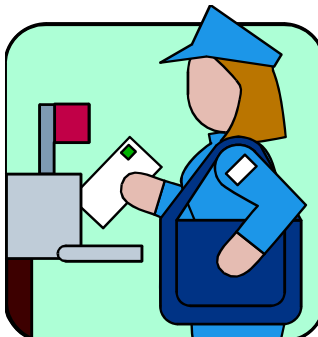
Every American knows the name of the agency that delivers their mail. The U.S. Postal service handles 668 million pieces of mail every day. The vast majority of it arrives intact, but thieves get to some of it before it's delivered.

Did you know that it is the **U.S. Postal Inspector** who investigates mail thefts? Last year alone they arrested over 6,000 theft suspects. They also work on countywide task forces with other law enforcement agencies to crack down on mail related crime.

Despite the Postal Services great report card, some parts of the country are dealing with mail theft, particularly in Tucson, Phoenix, Arizona, Texas and yes, even Carlsbad, California.

Thieves steal mail from postal trucks, collection boxes, apartment mailbox panels, co-op mailing racks, and neighborhood delivery and collection box units. They want your checks, your credit card applications, and your bank account statements.

Postal Inspectors are using a number of proven remedies to put a stop to the problem. Even better, they've teamed with Postal Service officials to implement brand-new strategies that thieves are bound to dislike.



The **U.S. Postal Inspection Service** says to use these steps to protect your mail:

- Use the letter slots at your local post office to mail letters, or give them to a letter carrier.
- Pick-up your mail promptly after delivery. Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight.
- Don't send cash in the mail.
- Ask your bank for "secure" checks that cannot be altered.
- Tell you post office when you will be out of town so they can hold your mail until you return.

Report all mail theft to the Postal Inspector.

If you believe your mail was stolen, report it immediately to your local postmaster or nearest Postal Inspector. You'll be asked to file a formal complaint using PS Form 2166, Mail Theft and Vandalism Complaint. By analyzing information collected from this form, Postal Inspectors can determine whether your problem is isolated or part of a larger neighborhood mail theft problem. It will also help Inspectors to locate and apprehend the thieves.

Mailboxes

Consult with your local postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes, including the availability of locked centralized or curbside mailboxes.

2005 FBI Index Crime Statistics

Carlsbad Crime rose slightly in 2005 when compared to 2004.

Yet, homicide, rape and aggravated assault decreased notably. Homicide decreased a whopping 75%!

Robbery increased in 2005 as well as most property crimes such as residential burglary and thefts from vehicles. This is due in large part to the opportunities for crime that are being left by residents.

The majority of residential burglaries and thefts from vehicles are committed with no use of force. Meaning the resident has left the house, garage or car unlocked and open, sometimes all three.

Adding to this, residents are leaving behind purses, wallets, computers and other personal items that can lead to identity theft. Ipods are the latest and newest technology being left behind in cars.

Let's lock it up and clean it out Carlsbad, so we can bring that crime rate back down!

How many children are sexually approached and/or solicited online?

Answer: According to *Highlights of the Youth Internet Safety Survey* conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice "one in five children (10 to 17 years old) receive unwanted sexual solicitations online."



NetSmartz® is an interactive, educational resource for children ages 5-17, parents, guardians, educators, and law enforcement that uses age-appropriate, 3-D activities to teach children how to stay safer on the Internet.

The goal of NetSmartz is to extend the safety awareness of children to prevent victimization and increase self-confidence whenever they go online. These goals include how to:

- Enhance the ability of children to recognize dangers on the Internet.
- Encourage children to report victimization to a trusted adult.
- Support and enhance community education efforts.
- Increase communication between adults and children about online safety
- Enhance the ability of children to understand that people they first meet on the Internet should never be considered a friend.

Most of all NetSmartz teaches children the rules for online safety.

Visit NetSmartz at
www.NetSmartz.org.



Access Device Fraud?

Financial industry sources estimate that losses associated with credit card fraud are in the billions of dollars annually. The Secret Service is the primary federal agency tasked with

investigating access device fraud and its related activities. This crime not only includes credit cards but also debit cards, automated teller machine (ATM) cards, computer passwords, personal identification numbers (PINs) used to activate ATMs, credit card or debit card account numbers, long-distance access codes, and the computer chips in cellular phones that assign billing.

During fiscal year 1996, the Secret Service opened 2,467 cases, closed 2,963 cases, and arrested 2,429 individuals for access device fraud. Industry sources estimate that losses associated with credit card fraud are in the billions of dollars annually.

If you have been the victim of credit card fraud or identity theft, the following tips will assist you.

- Report the crime to the police immediately. Get a copy of your police report or case number. Credit card companies, your bank, and the insurance company may ask you to reference the report to verify the crime.
- Immediately contact your credit card issuers. Get replacement cards with new account numbers and ask that the old account be processed as "account closed at consumer's request" for credit record purposes. You should also follow up this telephone conversation with a letter to the credit card company that summarizes your request in writing.
- Call the fraud units of the three credit reporting bureaus. Report the theft of your credit cards and/or numbers. Ask that your accounts be flagged. Also, add a victim's statement to your report that requests that they contact you to verify future credit applications